

**From:** Erin Diehl  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/14/02 9:33pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Case

847 North Van Dorn Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22304

January 11, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing today to voice my opinion regarding the settlement in the Microsoft Anti Trust case. This settlement has been long awaited and I see no reason too prolong its implementation. As part of the lawsuit's terms, a mediator was assigned by the courts to assist in the negotiation efforts. Microsoft certainly did not get off easy, as some may think. They are giving way more than is necessary, given that they are a private company and should be able to keep their research and technology to themselves. However, they are handing over coding and interface information to their competitors who weren't smart enough to come up with their own. They are also making it easier for Windows users to install and use non-Windows products. Given the fact that most computers come with Windows because they are the most user-friendly, I don't see why this was an issue in the first place. I decided to install non-Microsoft products on my computer and had no problems in doing so. But as part of the settlement, Microsoft is going above and beyond their responsibility and nearly promoting other companies' products.

I am a graduate student and throughout my years of schooling and research, I've depended on Microsoft for everything having to do with computers. Doing papers and research would not have been as easy had I not been able to use my computer. I remember how difficult word-processing programs were before Microsoft's Word program. Since then young computer users have easily picked up the ins and outs of software and computers. Microsoft has changed the way people learn. I would be hard pressed to learn other products such as UNIX or Oracle. Although anyone is free to use them, these products are inferior to Microsoft's products in that they are much more difficult and not very user-friendly. However, the terms of the settlement now call for these products to be made more easily available.

The terms of this settlement go above and beyond what is necessary. It would be ridiculous to think

otherwise. Microsoft has served the public interest for years; this settlement certainly does the same. Please maintain this settlement and ensure this lawsuit is laid to rest.

Sincerely,

Erin Diehl